

## In Social Circles

By Mrs. Dona Carney

### The Woman's Club Adjourns—

To the uninitiated it may appear that the only raison d'être of the Woman's Club of Bryan is the study of those things that are the basis of self-culture and a preparation for better social service, literature, art, history, etc. But we are banded together for a grave and earnest purpose, and though we are only a very small part of the grand total of 800,000 federated women, still we are working with them for the moral uplift of the world, for the conservation of the home and the children, and for moral as well as mental and physical training in schools as a necessary part of the development of good citizenship.

We are setting high educational ideals and training the mothers of American homes to approximate them. But it is not the purpose of this article to dwell upon the noble work being done by women's federated clubs, but to report the last meeting of the Woman's Club of Bryan. On Wednesday, March 20, the club held its last meeting until we reconvene next October. Our adjournment came all too soon this season, for in the seventeen years of our club existence we have never enjoyed more harmonious and delightful meetings. A feeling of comradeship seems to have

grown up between the members and it is with genuine pleasure that we greet each other in our weekly gathering.

The report of Mrs. W. S. Wilson, recording secretary, was piquant and full of bon mots and was roundly applauded. Mrs. Wilson's reports are always applauded, for, like the good little girl in the fairy tale, every time she speaks pearls and jewels fall from her lips.

But there are others. Our little critic, Mrs. W. P. Bryan (than whom there is none more clever) also comes in for her share of applause. As critic she has given the club the benefit of her high-class college education.

The treasurer, Mrs. John Hines, gave an account of her stewardship and turned over her heaps of gold and silver to her successor with a great sigh of relief, feeling that her responsibility had been almost as great as that of our national treasurer.

Next came the election of officers and there were so many Richmonds in the field (put up by admiring friends) that the vote had to be taken over two or three times for every office. The result was as follows:

President—Mrs. J. Webb Howell.  
Vice President—Mrs. Charles Davis.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Seth Mooring.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. J. Allen Myers.

Treasurer—Mrs. E. J. Fountain.

Parliamentarian—Mrs. W. P. Bryan.

Critic—Mrs. W. S. Wilson.

Reporter—Mrs. W. G. Tallaferra.

After the election of officers Mrs. John Astin, the retiring president, gave a little "heart to heart" talk to the club members, thanking each one for their hearty co-operation and encouragement during her incumbency as president. By her graciousness and tact Mrs. Astin has endeared herself to every member of the Woman's Club. She has given her time and talents to working up an increased interest in the club and her success in this has far exceeded her fondest hopes. In turning over the gavel to the newly elected president, Mrs. J. Webb Howell, Mrs. Astin expressed the belief that the same loyal support of the club would be given her.

Mrs. Howell, in accepting the badge of office, declared her purpose of living right up to her motto: "We must move with the times." With Mrs. Howell's youth, ability and enthusiasm, we feel the Woman's Club will progress and maintain its high record of doing things well and promptly. All of the newly elected officers are well known in Bryan circles, except Mrs. Charles Davis, who is a comparative stranger, and the compliment of electing her vice president proves that she has made a splendid impression on her sister club women.

We hope to have Mrs. Davis a denizen of Bryan when she returns from her summer outing.

After the election of officers a collation was served of tutti-frutti cream and angel food cake. Upon each plate was placed a dainty booklet tied in the club colors, white and green.

The little booklets will be cherished as a gift from a charming woman and a souvenir of a delightful occasion.

Mrs. M. W. Sims.

### Woman's Club Report for 1911-12—

On club opening day, October 4, 1911, our president in her address said: "I trust we have all come with the firm resolve to be faithful in attendance and all duties assigned us, for without the co-operation of the entire membership no club can be a success." Now on this closing day I am sure she must feel gratified, for the attendance has been excellent, every duty conscientiously performed, and the club is a success. There has been a steady growth during the year, and today thirty-five names are entered on the roster.

Early in October it was moved and carried that the club's place of meeting be changed from the south to the north room in Carnegie library. Suitable furnishings were arranged for, and in November the club was "at home" in its handsome new quarters. The pretty curtains which add so much to the appearance of the rooms were presented by the Young Ladies' Reading Club. Our reporter, writing of these club girls in a late paper, said: "They have given evidence of so much talent in their ranks, the elder club sisters will have to look to their laurels lest they be completely eclipsed." Now it will not be long before these bright, charming young girls will be bright, charming young married women—then we will draw them into the Woman's Club. We already have two extremely clever ones, drawn from a girls' club; and it seems a very short time since Lilla Graham McInnis and Esther Boatwright were enthusiastic Bachelor Girls. But to return to my report.

The Texas Federation of Women's Clubs was held in Houston, November 21-25. The Woman's Club was ably represented by Mrs. M. W. Sims, delegate, and Mrs. W. G. Tallaferra. Mrs. Sims, representing this club, pledged \$10 to the National Federation endowment fund, and when this amount was forwarded to Mrs. Pennybacker, chairman of Texas fund, she mentioned that the Woman's Club of Bryan was the first to meet its obligation. Mrs. Sims was honored (and through her the club) by being requested to make the speech nominating the new federation president, Mrs. Ell Hertzberg of San Antonio.

The different committees appointed by the president have faithfully discharged their duties. The house committee, which is changed every month, saw that the rooms were kept in perfect order and comfortably heated during the winter season. To the program committee we are indebted for the fine programs arranged for the two open meetings, Thanksgiving and Texas Day.

On February 7 our president suggested that at the next open meeting, Texas Day, March 6, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Young Ladies' Reading Club and Civic League be asked to assist and make the entertainment a tea, with refreshments and a free-will offering—the money to be devoted to the purchase of books by Southern writers and the collection placed in Carnegie library. The suggestion was carried out, a

splendid program arranged by the committee, dainty refreshments were served, and a free-will offering of \$32.50 was taken in. Thus through the efforts of the Woman's Club "a Southern shelf" was made possible in our public library.

In regard to the club's weekly work, the lessons have all been interesting, but two stand out as being specially so—the London lesson and the Paris lesson. Roll call has been answered by "Current Events," "Home Economics," "Spread of Mormonism," "Influence of Women's Clubs on Education," etc., and in calling the roll the secretary was always loath to pass as quickly as was necessary from one name to another, so much did the ladies have to say on each subject and so well did they say it.

The club includes in its membership quite a number of musicians and has enjoyed a musical treat each week. Mrs. W. C. Davis, Mrs. Webb Howell, Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Raynor, Mrs. Giesecke, Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Wilson have all contributed musical numbers. We have also had the pleasure of hearing Miss Mary McInnis and Mrs. George Adams, charming vocalists; Miss Spence of San Angelo, an accomplished cornetist, and Mr. Ball, a pianist of ability. So with roll call, music, papers and discussions, business, table talk (English writers) and Shakespearean study (Henry VI; and that play in which it is said all the sweet witchery of Shakespeare's genius is concentrated, "A Midsummer Night's Dream")—with all this I say, the club has rounded out a full, pleasant and profitable year.

Mrs. W. S. Wilson,  
Recording Secretary.

### Civic Club to Meet—

Attention is called to an important meeting of the Civic Club at Carnegie Hall next Wednesday afternoon, March 27, at 3 o'clock. On account of the rain and very inclement weather last week the regular election of officers was postponed until the next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, March 27. Every woman in Bryan is urged to be present. It is the duty of every woman to do her part in this work of civic improvement; she owes it to her home, to her family, to her neighbors, and to her town, to aid in every way possible this campaign for the cleanliness, health and beauty of Bryan. The first step toward ultimate success along these lines is to attend the meeting of the Civic League at Carnegie Hall next Wednesday, March 27, at 3 o'clock. If you are a member, it is an obligation to be met. If you have not joined the club, it is your duty to do so at once. Come, everybody.

### Linen Shower—

In response to a cleverly rhymed verse bidding them to honor Miss Francis Davis, a gay crowd of maids and matrons entered the home of Mrs. Charlie Moran on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, each one bent on playing providence by providing a shower for the popular Easter bride.

The rooms were artistically decorated with quantities of beautiful wild flowers and red berries; masses of trailing ferns and palms providing the cool, restful note of spring's own out-of-doors. Overhead were twined long red streamers, all caught together in the center of the ceiling with a big open bell, as if out of it were already pouring the showers of blessings that are wished for the young honoree.

In the long reception hall the guests lingered, loathe to leave the inviting spot in the middle of it where Miss Esther Davis and Mrs. John Herrington stood serving punch from a bowl almost hidden among fragrant nubile blossoms. Here Mrs. Mark Francis proposed a toast and the guests drained their glasses:

Here's to the rose that buds and grows,

Pluck it and call it your own;

For the rose must fade,

And so will the maid

If she lives too long alone!

Now, to the dear that is not here,

my dear,

For if the dear that is not here were here,

We would not be drinking this toast

to you my dear.

Then the hostess tied a big pocketed apron about Miss Davis and bade her open the door of a closed room that looked as mysterious as a "Blue Beard" chamber—from the outside. As she stepped across the threshold such a shower of rice fell from a bride's slipper suspended above that she staggered under the load. But once inside the symbolism of the out-of-doors suggestions and of the housewife's apron became evident. For there, on a long clothes line, hung such a wash as never girl took down. Exquisite embroideries, the daintiest bits of lingerie, finest linens, things for use and things for ornament—all fashioned by skillful, loving fingers—were pulled loose, only to be pinned back again for the delight of the guests.

Afterwards hand-painted score cards, recognized as the original work of the

honoree's sister, Miss Esther Davis, were distributed. On a long golden arrow sat two little Cupids, wearing ecstatic expressions, and loving each other with all the strength of their small arms. For them was named the game that followed, played with red and white dice, on tables covered with linen, which bore the numbers embroidered in the same scarlet colors. Progressions were marked with tiny gilt hearts, which were pasted on the backs of the love gods. On each table were bonbon dishes of miniature peppermint sticks. For success in the game "Cupids" Mrs. Marsteller was awarded handsome embroidered towels, while the honor guest was further honored with an Irish crochet slipper bag, the work of the hostess.

At the conclusion of the game was served an ice refreshment, preserving the chosen color motif. A baked meringue heart held the frozen mousse and each of the individual angel cakes bore a scarlet geranium, as if its stem had taken root there.

Miss Davis wore a handsome white coat suit with blue trimmings and a Panama flap sailor. The hostess was gowned in a filmy lingerie frock.

The many College Station matrons and Bryan bachelor girls who were guests at this pleasing hospitality sincerely praised the original ideas of Mrs. Moran, whom everyone knows is a charming person and a gracious hostess. In the conception of these effective ideas she was assisted by Mrs. Nagel, mother of the honoree; Miss Esther Davis, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Mark Francis, Mrs. John Herrington.

It is the Wednesday following Easter that Miss Francis Davis will leave Texas for Georgia, after becoming the bride of a man who, though a stranger to us, has our hearty good wishes.

"May the sun of his happiness never go down,  
May the wife he has chosen from our good town

Prove a helpmate indeed, and a friend so true

That the world will be wrapped in a rose-colored hue,

With never a shadow and never a frown,

With many ups and never a down,  
With as much joy as ever can

Fall to the lot of mortal man."

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